This time limit applied even in cases in which the aggrieved party had not been a party to, or had no notice or knowledge of, the proceedings. He said that that was highly injurious and was a violation of recognised principles of law, that there was no reason why the ordinary period of limitation should be curtailed where the Government officers went wrong and that the object of nullifying the effect of a ruling of the High Court through legislative interference should certainly be discouraged. The Member, therefore, proposed that the Bill might be dropped.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member in regard to the draft Puduval Rules will be considered before the Rules are issued. In regard to the Land Assignment Bill, the observations of the Member will be considered by the Legislative Council.

8. Grievances as regards puduval registry.

Mr. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Nedumangad Taluk) admitted the necessity for the revision of the Rules, but thought that the Revised Rules, as now framed, would do more harm than good. If lands were put up to auction in 10 acre blocks, as contemplated in Rule 12, the local ryot would have no chance of getting any land as against the foreign capitalist. The Rules would not help to build up a prosperous peasantry. The policy of selling lands in auction should be changed. Rule 17 dealt with the registry of occupied lands. The Rule did not specify what would be regarded as valuable improvements. It would cause severe hardship, if improvements were taken to mean only cocoanut, areca and other cultivation. In the Nedumangad taluk especially, all lands were not suited for such cultivation, and generally tapioca, hill paddy and vegetables were being cultivated after clearing the undergrowth. The Rules should specifically provide for the treatment of such cultivation as valuable improvements. Provision should also be made in the Rules for giving the registry-holder the option to take registry of the land alone, without paying for the tree growth, and for the Government removing the tree growth within two years from the lands in cases where he did not purchase it. The *tharavila* and *thadivila* should be separately fixed in registering puduval lands. Rule 19 which required payment also for the trees cut and removed before the registry would lead to untold oppression by the Provertikar. The data relating to the height, *vannam*, etc., of such trees were uncertain, and the registry-holder would have to pay for timber removed by a prior occupant. The duty of protecting the royal trees on the land imposed on the registry-holder would lead to oppression by the Provertikar, and it was hard to impose on him that responsibility without paying him at least half the value realised by their sale. The clause should be deleted. The restriction against alienation of lands registered under Rule 24 on concessional terms to members of the depressed classes contained in Rule 28 was not justifiable. Lands on which substantial improvements had been made became heritable family property and should be freely alienable. The Rule should be so amended as to make alienations of such lands inoperative only during a period of fifteen years after the date of the grant. Logically, the concession allowed by Rule 53 to pay the *tharavila* in instalments in cases where it exceeded Rs. 1,000 should be confined to cases below that amount so as to benefit the really deserving. Rule 57 was in no way acceptable, as it would vitiate the entire puduval policy. The Government should have discretion to register occupied land only to a Travancorean. The rates of *tharavila* and *thadivila* should not be raised as proposed in the draft Rules. Even the existing rates should be reduced. Puduval lands should not be assigned to non-Travancoreans. No individual should be allowed to obtain registry of more than fifty acres; and, among applicants, those who owned less than 50 acres should have preference. No *tharavila* and *thadivila* should be realised from members belonging to the depressed classes. The rates of *tharavila* should be reduced.

Dewan's reply.—The Rules published are only in the draft stage. All the suggestions made by the Member will be carefully considered.

9. Certain suggestions regarding the Draft Puduval Rules.

Mr. Ittiavira Thomas (Member, Peermade Taluk) made the following observations about the draft Rules, and said that they were the views of himself and a number of people in his locality. The proposal to sell puduval lands generally by auction

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would prevent the middle class from acquiring land in competition with the capitalists. The retention of the old rule giving preference to first applicants would be advantageous. The value of unreserved trees should not be included under *thadivila*. Lands with unreserved trees which were useful only for fuel and not for building purposes were found only in the eastern portions of the central taluks and in the eastern taluks, where, owing to the distance from the markets, the difficulties of transport and the abundance of local supply, the fuel did not fetch a price except in cases where there were Railway stations or navigable rivers close by. The Tahsildar should be authorised to check the valuation of tree growth made by the surveyor. In Rule 15 (iv), the auction purchaser should be allowed at least 15 days of grace to deposit the money, and the Division Peishkar should be competent to condone defaults for satisfactory reasons. To demand *tharavila* at the prevailing market rates for adjoining lands in the case of occupied land would be unfair and oppressive, as the lands had already been entered upon and improvements made *bona fide* in the belief that registry would be obtained under the Rules in force. The market value of similar lands within about two furlongs should be taken into account in fixing the *tharavila* on a plot of land. The amounts recited in the documents evidencing transactions relating to lands cannot always be relied upon as a correct guide. The market value might be ascertained by computing ten times the annual yield and deducting therefrom the cost of cultivation and the amount of tax, as laid down in the Court Fees Regulation. It might be that the entry and occupation by an enterprising man into a block of land had led to the opening up of the neighbourhood and the rise in the value of adjacent land. The market value should, therefore, be what the neighbouring lands would have fetched when the occupant first entered on the land. Rule 22 would be a weapon of oppression in the hands of the Tahsildars, and no land in *bona fide* occupation and with valuable improvements should be auctioned. The Rules relating to concessional grants to depressed classes would prove highly beneficial to them. The maximum *tharavila* chargeable on dry lands should be fixed at Rs. 50 per acre in the case of the lands referred to in Parts (i) and (ii) of Rule 39, and at Rs. 200 per acre in the case of the principal towns. The absence of a rule relating to the maximum *tharavila* was viewed with alarm by the public. The *tharavila* for wet lands should be reduced to Rs. 10 at least in the Devicolam Division. There were close to the Madura frontier extensive areas suitable for paddy cultivation which had not yet been taken up owing to their situation, inaccessibility, high cost of cultivation and risk of damage from wild animals. They should be registered without auction in the names of *bona fide* Travancore ryots. The prohibition against the registry of lands lying within two furlongs of all reserved forests would considerably reduce the area available for registry. The policy of the Government was not to add to the extent of the reserves which already covered about a third of the total area of the State. The Peishkar should be empowered to grant the registry of *all* lands outside the reserved forests Rule 47 was meaningless as the subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja did not enjoy any appreciable benefit under the draft Rules. Having regard to the economic condition of the ryots, *tharavila* in cases involving more than Rs. 1,000 should be allowed to be paid in ten yearly instalments. In view of the local difficulties and cost of transport, the pakuthies of Kanjirapalli North and Kanjirapalli South should, in Schedule I, be included under Group IV, and the pakuthies of Peruvantanam and Peermade in Group V.

Dewan's reply.—The Member has made many constructive criticisms on the draft Rules which, I am sure, will be helpful to Government. They will receive very careful consideration.

10. Difficulties experienced by Pulayas in the matter of habitation.

Mr. Aiyan Kali (Member, Nominated) began by thanking the Government for the grant of lands to his community free of *tharavila*. The beneficent intentions of the Government were, however, being frustrated by the action of the subordinate officers. The lands comprised in Survey Nos. 3008 and 3020 in the Kalial pakuthi, Vilavankod taluk, were lying [illegible] and a thousand applications from the Pulayas of the taluk for their re[illegible] to struggled. The [illegible] put in possession of the lands already been rejected and in[illegible] taluk, though [illegible] be mi[illegible] they were entered in the Ne[illegible] the gr[illegible] and on the

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